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Peacebuilding Commission

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Organization Committee

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 25 January 2017, at 10 a.m.

Chair:	Mr. Kamau	(Kenya)
later:	Mr. Cho Tae-yul	(Republic of Korea)
later:	Mr. Hahn Choonghee	(Republic of Korea)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda (PBC/11/OC/1)

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its tenth session (PBC/10/OC/L.1)

2. **The Chair** recalled that the draft report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its tenth session (PBC/10/OC/L.1) had been provisionally approved by the Organizational Committee during informal consultations, pending its translation into all United Nations official languages. He noted that chapter III of the report set out the framework for the Commission's workplan in 2017 and that the report would be considered by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

3. *The draft report was adopted.*

Election of officers

4. **The Chair** said that, in view of prior consultations among regional groups and members of the Organizational Committee, it was his understanding that the Committee was prepared to elect the new Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission.

5. *The Republic of Korea was elected Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2017.*

6. **The Chair** said that the Group of African States had endorsed Kenya for the position of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its eleventh session.

7. *Kenya was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2017.*

8. **The Chair** said that the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had endorsed Mexico for the position of Vice-Chair of the Commission for its eleventh session.

9. *Mexico was elected Vice-Chair by acclamation for a term ending on 31 December 2017.*

10. *Switzerland was re-elected as Chair of the Burundi configuration; Morocco was re-elected as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration; Canada was re-elected as Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration; and Brazil was re-elected as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration.*

Statement by the outgoing Chair

11. **The Chair** said that his delegation's term as Chair had been guided by three overarching priorities, namely, to deepen the impact of the Peacebuilding Commission by building on his predecessors' forward agenda and drawing from the lessons learned; to take forward the outcomes of the three reviews on United Nations peace operations conducted in 2015; and to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, Goal 16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The progress achieved in the intervening year included the establishment of the Group of Friends on Sustaining Peace with a fully active, diverse membership. Consultative meetings on bridging the Commission's role in conflict prevention and sustaining peace had been held with the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council and other actors. The Commission had held multilateral fundraising conferences and taken other proactive measures to bolster its financial standing and showcase the activities of the Peacebuilding Fund.

12. During his tenure, the Commission had followed through on its commitment to expand its country-specific work. To that end, it had visited several West African countries and briefed the African Peace and Security Council with a view to formalizing security arrangements, thus deepening its partnership with the African Union, as required by the outcome of the review of the peacebuilding architecture. In September 2016, the Peacebuilding Commission gender strategy had been adopted with technical assistance from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The aim was to streamline the crucial role of women, particularly as grassroots peacebuilders, in the Commission's work. The President of the General Assembly had convened a high-level dialogue on building sustainable peace for all, directly following the Security Council meeting convened by Sweden on the same subject. Both events had constituted a milestone for United Nations action to promote peace, a central and abiding concern for Member States. Areas where peace prevailed — thus providing hope for extending peace to the rest of the world — served as areas on which to build the

Commission's work and ensure its effective impact, an effort to which his country would continue to contribute.

13. *Mr. Cho Tae-yul (Republic of Korea) took the Chair.*

Statement by the incoming Chair

14. **The Chair** welcomed the foundation laid down by his predecessor to establish a mechanism to enhance the Commission's partnership with the African Union Peace and Security Council. There would be transitions at several levels during 2017, with a new Secretary-General and tumultuous transformations under way in the global security environment. Member States had endorsed the Secretary-General's call for a new approach to conflict prevention, which he had characterized as the Organization's top priority. As Chair of the Commission, he would engage key global and regional actors to support those facing the imminent outbreak of conflict or undergoing post-conflict challenges. The important issues identified in the forward agenda set out in the Commission's report on its tenth session would form part of its work in 2017. He had also identified a number of other priorities that would guide the Commission's work, as set out in the letter of intent that he had sent to the members of the Organizational Committee on 25 January 2017.

15. First, he would work closely with the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to mainstream the concept of sustaining peace throughout the United Nations system. He would also encourage members of the Commission to engage more actively in strengthening the synergies between the Commission and the three main bodies from which they were elected. Second, he would build upon existing partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including regional and subregional organizations, civil society and the private sector in order to galvanize the necessary support within and outside the United Nations system. Third, in order to ensure predictable financing for peacebuilding, he would actively collaborate with the World Bank to explore cooperation options in conflict-affected countries and, with the support of the membership, make the issue of financing for peacebuilding the theme of the 2017 annual session of the Commission. Fourth, he would promote the gender dimensions of and youth participation in the peacebuilding process, including by operationalizing the Commission's previously adopted gender strategy and Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on youth. Lastly, he would meticulously implement the new working methods with a view to making the Commission a more efficient, transparent and flexible entity.

16. In the early days of the Organization, his own country had endured a post-conflict transition and its attendant challenges, namely, extreme poverty, weak institutions and collapse of basic social infrastructure. Its journey from devastation to a robust economy and a vibrant democracy, with the guidance of the United Nations, attested to the fact that peace, far from being inevitable, was instead the result of difficult decisions, hard work and compromise and, as such, should be prized and nurtured in every country.

Workplan of the Peacebuilding Commission

17. **The Chair** said that, according to paragraph 4 of the document on the working methods of the Peacebuilding Commission, contained as an annex to the Commission's draft report on its tenth session (PBC/10/OC/L.1), the Commission was expected to adopt an annual workplan based on the forward agenda contained in the Commission's annual report. The workplan was to be further developed and circulated to Member States on a quarterly basis and, on a monthly basis, listing the dates of meetings, activities and visits of the Commission in all its configurations. Commission members had received a proposed workplan for the Organizational Committee and the planned activities of the Chair to take forward the actions stipulated in the forward agenda. He took it that the Committee provisionally approved the proposed workplan.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that peacebuilding was a universal task in which every country, whatever its level of social cohesion, development and democracy, must participate. The Commission's almost exclusive focus on specific countries since its inception compromised its capacity to approach peacebuilding in a universal manner. That problem persisted, as reflected by the proposed workplan; half of the 44 activities listed pertained to

specific countries. In essence, the Commission worked primarily for the African continent and the West African subregion — a laudable and necessary task and a top priority, to be sure. However, in so doing, it failed to benefit from the experiences of other regions, including his own. On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the conclusion of its peace accords, El Salvador was working to reach a national agreement in order to address the problems not tackled when the peace was won. His country hoped to share its experience, but in order to allow it to do so, the Commission would require a more universal focus and greater efficiency. The Commission should adopt a more pluralistic approach to its work in order both to assist and to learn from the widest possible number of countries.

20. The Chair said that he was planning a special event in Asia as part of the overall effort to diversify the Commission's focus and agenda.

21. **Mr. Bessho** (Japan) said that the Commission had been exploring the possibility of designating focal points for country-specific and thematic activities, with a view to building on its accomplishments to date. Institution building was one of the most important aspects of peacebuilding. He had drafted a non-paper that discussed, inter alia, the Commission's focal point for institution building, a task that should be approached in thematic and regional ways, not merely country-specific ones. Japan was prepared to serve as focal point and was keen to commence its work promptly, if members were in agreement, as part of the overall initiative to broaden the scope of the Commission's work.

22. **Mr. Fernandez-Taranco** (Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support) said that the Kenyan delegation had played a vital role in jumpstarting the implementation of the joint Security Council-General Assembly resolution on sustaining peace, particularly in connection with a more flexible Commission. Moving forward, it would be crucial to continue building on the successes of prior Chairs and to endeavour to make the Commission more dynamic and relevant to Member States, beyond the configurations that had been the focus of its work to date.

23. In 2016, the Commission had addressed a wide range of thematic, regional and country-specific issues and strengthened its partnership with the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Mano River Union. The Commission's working methods, contained in the report, provided an opportunity to re-examine its modus operandi. At its third annual session, the Commission had discussed the support that it could provide to countries undergoing transitions. In the future, that discussion would be linked to the type of funding that the Peacebuilding Fund was extending to countries facing such transitions. Kenya had taken the lead in organizing the high-level pledging conference for the Fund, which had mobilized $152 million, facilitating rapid responses to countries in transition and crisis.

24. Implementing the recommendations set out in the resolutions would pose a key challenge. A major part of the Commission's relevance and credibility was based on how it had improved its working methods in order to provide a diplomatic platform to discuss a wide range of countries and situations, always at the country's request. The increasingly frequent mention of its activities by the Security Council provided opportunities for the Commission to offer critical value-added input to the Council's deliberations. A more engaged membership would enhance the quality of the input. Moreover, the Commission's bridging role would be fundamental to the success of Organization-wide reforms in different areas proposed by the Secretary-General and to delivering sustainable peace and development on the ground.

25. His Office welcomed the call for closer synergies with the Peacebuilding Fund and stood ready to provide updates on the Fund's activities in countries not on the Commission's agenda. It would continue to support countries that received funding from the Commission and to encourage countries eligible for funding to report to the Commission as a platform for their peacebuilding strategies, experiences and challenges. The Chair had highlighted financing as a key priority for the 2017 session, a welcome emphasis. In that connection, the Commission must ensure that the necessary consultations on sustained and predictable funding for peacebuilding activities were conducted so that the positions of Member States were reflected in the report. It was also important to partner with regional organizations as well as civil society and the private sector. In closing, he welcomed the new working methods and called on the membership to remain engaged with them in a dynamic manner.

26. **The Chair** invited the Chairs of the country-specific configurations to share their plans and priorities for 2017.

27. **Mr. Blanchard** (Canada), speaking as the Chair of the Sierra Leone configuration, said that his team would focus on preparations for the 2018 elections, and ensuring that Ebola recovery and the broader sustainable development agenda remained on track and continued to receive support from international partners. He hoped to work with the Ambassador of Japan on institution building, which was essential for the future of Sierra Leone.

28. He expressed full support for the four priority areas the Chair had selected. It was particularly important to ensure that the Commission's gender strategy yielded tangible results.

29. **Mr. Vieira** (Brazil), speaking as the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration, said that Guinea-Bissau had much in common with Brazil. His Government would be following the political situation in Guinea-Bissau not only in its Peacebuilding Commission role, but also in its capacity as Chair of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries for 2017-2018, which would enable strengthened cooperation between the two bodies. The international community should continue to support Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) mediation efforts in Guinea-Bissau with a view to promoting adherence to the six-point plan and Conakry agreement. Guinea-Bissau needed an inclusive government. It was crucial to adopt a government plan; civilians must not continue to carry the burden of political deadlock.

30. In the upcoming weeks his configuration would meet with representatives of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to be updated regarding political developments, specifically the latest on the six-point plan and Conakry agreement, and with ECOWAS representatives to hear about progress in the mediation. He welcomed the establishment by the General Assembly of the positions of Political Affairs Officer and Rule of Law Officer, which would strengthen the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

31. **Mr. Lauber** (Switzerland), speaking as the Chair of the Burundi configuration, said that it was necessary to wait and see how the dynamic situation in Burundi developed. The configuration intended to build on its work of the previous 12 to 18 months, in particular on reinforcing the trust of the Burundi authorities in the international system.

32. In 2016 the configuration had made significant progress on social and economic development. At the end of the year it had held a successful retreat where, with United Nations system partners, configuration members had considered possible ways to meet the needs of Burundi.

33. He expected to convene a similar event in 2017. He also planned to increase the number of partners involved in the configuration's work: new United Nations staff would be working on Burundi and the configuration would continue its outreach to international financial institutions,but it would also seek to make better use of configuration members' expertise on Burundi. He would carry out a country visit in the first quarter of 2017 accompanied by representatives of configuration members. His delegation stood ready to contribute to the discussions on the working methods of the Commission.

34. **Mr. Hilale** (Morocco), speaking as Chair of the Central African Republic configuration, said that the previous year had been replete with challenges, not least ensuring that the national legislative and presidential elections proceeded peacefully. It had been a successful year for peacebuilding, with configuration members playing an important role.

35. Calling 2017 a year of hope, he noted that, at the Brussels Donor Conference for the Central African Republic in November 2016, donors had pledged $2,268,000,000, surpassing the highest expectations and reaffirming the international community's commitment to support the country in its recovery, prevent its relapse into crisis, guarantee its stability and give hope to its people. His configuration would work to capitalize on that support and would keep the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission informed of progress.

36. A provisional 2017 programme of work, based primarily on support for and follow-up to the National Plan for Recovery and Peacebuilding that had been presented at the Brussels conference, would be presented to configuration members for approval at their next meeting. He intended to hold thematic

meetings focussed on the three pillars of the plan with a view to ensuring the ongoing engagement of all stakeholders. In February the configuration would adopt its work programme; it would also brief the Security Council on progress. In March the configuration would begin its substantive work, starting with the first pillar of the National Plan: restoration of peace and security, and national reconciliation. It would also meet with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in order to follow up on the funding commitments made in Brussels. In April the configuration would meet and focus on the second pillar of the national plan, the renewal of the social contract between the State and the people. In May it would focus on the third pillar, namely rebuilding the economy and galvanizing the productive sector. He would also conduct a country visit, accompanied by configuration members, in order to see what, if any, obstacles needed to be overcome and to obtain the cooperation of the competent institutions to ensure that the funds promised at Brussels would be made available. In June there would be a stock-taking meeting, as well as another chance to brief the Security Council regarding progress on security, restructuring, development and national reconciliation.

37. **Mr. Skau** (Sweden), speaking as Chair of the Liberia configuration, said that that he was encouraged by the support shown at the Security Council open debate on conflict prevention and sustaining peace earlier in January 2017, and the discussions at the high-level dialogue on "Building Sustainable Peace for All: Synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustaining Peace Agenda".

38. In his view, the situation in Gambia was a textbook example of United Nations preventative diplomacy and collaboration with regional actors. It would be vital to maintain peace throughout the transition in the country. International assistance would be needed, inter alia, to ensure stability and revive the economy.

39. He fully supported the priorities for the year ahead outlined by the incoming Chair of the Commission. It was promising that the new Secretary-General was already taking concrete steps to implement the sustaining peace agenda. The Commission might find it useful to discuss lessons learned from the sustaining peace approach being piloted in Sri Lanka and Burkina Faso.

40. His configuration had three priorities for 2017: to engage closely with the development of a peacebuilding plan, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2333 (2016); support government efforts to ensure that the upcoming presidential and legislative elections were successful and contributed to consolidating democracy; and advance national reconciliation, since social cohesion was vital for a prosperous and stable Liberia.

41. While the November 2016 donor conference had indeed been a success, financing for peacebuilding remained well below ideal levels. Member States and other partners must revitalize their efforts in that area.

42. **The Chair** said that the representatives of Burundi and Guinea had asked to participate in the discussion of the item under consideration.

43. *At the invitation of the Chair, Mr. Shingiro (Burundi) and Mr. Soumah (Guinea) took places at the Committee table.*

44. **Mr. Shingiro** (Burundi) said that his delegation particularly welcomed the Chair's plans to focus on gender and youth. It was important to find alternatives to the violence which was often directed against young people in the countries on the Commission's agenda. His delegation also appreciated the emphasis on resource mobilization, and the stated intention of increasing flexibility in the implementation of the Commission's mandate, which was in keeping with the new Secretary-General's ideas about reducing bureaucracy at the United Nations.

45. The 2017 workplan was ambitious but achievable. It was welcome news that the practice of conducting field visits was being retained: they enabled close contact with national and regional actors, the value of which had been demonstrated by recent developments in Gambia. His delegation counted on the Commission's continued support for the subregion.

46. **Mr. Soumah** (Guinea) said that a delegation from the Commission had visited Guinea in November 2016 to review, alongside the competent national authorities, the Guinean Government's cooperation with the Commission. Discussions had centred on progress

against the three pillars set out in the Statement of mutual commitments on peacebuilding in Guinea between the Government of Guinea and the Peacebuilding Commission, namely national reconciliation, security sector reform, and youth and women's employment, in addition to other challenges that the community still faced. The need for concerted efforts to build institutional capacity, especially judicial capacity, had been noted. In that connection, his delegation appreciated the willingness Japan had recently expressed to act as the institution-building focal point. The report of the review was being finalized by the competent national authorities, in line with the principle of country leadership and ownership, and would shortly be submitted for formal adoption by the Commission, as outlined in the Commission's 2017 workplan.

47. **The Chair** said that he planned to further strengthen the links between the work of the Organizational Committee and the country-specific configurations by holding regular and ad hoc meetings to take stock of progress made by each configuration. He would be convening an expert-level meeting in the coming days to discuss thematic issues and the establishment of focal points. The meeting would provide the opportunity to iron out the modalities for addressing the ensemble of thematic issues. Various Member States had expressed interest in being focal points for gender, youth and other thematic areas of work.

48. **Mr. Pedersen** (Norway) said that the Commission must make the most of 2017. The two peacebuilding meetings already held in January showed that the Commission's membership was keen to move forward; the Chair and Vice-Chairs should work to ensure that the peacebuilding architecture lived up to its full potential. Prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and development were all part of a continuum; success required work on each of those areas. The Commission's success should always be measured by how much it improved the situation on the ground in the countries where it operated; the focus on impact on the ground in the workplan was therefore welcome.

49. With regard to the workplan, his delegation supported the changes to the Commission's working methods intended to increase its agility and relevance in supporting countries and regions and developing and delivering on peacebuilding strategies, as well as the emphasis on partnerships and national ownership. It was necessary to emphasize the added value offered by the Commission, namely its convening power and bridge-building role. Links between the Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund must be strengthened since financing was integral to the Commission's development work. A stronger partnership between the Commission and the Security Council was both necessary and possible, and would enable the Commission to reduce the workload of the Security Council and facilitate a smoother transition for countries emerging from conflict. Lastly, his delegation welcomed the idea of establishing focal points for key areas of work.

50. **Mr. Lamek** (France) said that the country-specific configurations played an extremely useful, important role on the ground in terms of crisis prevention and resolution. Notwithstanding, there was value in broadening the Commission's approach; the Organizational Committee had an important role to play in making that change.

51. As for working methods, his delegation was of the view that appointing resident coordinators would improve the quality of the Commission's follow-up to its actions. Resident coordinators would be capable of harmonizing the work of the various international actors and agencies involved in a given peacebuilding process, and could keep the Organizational Committee abreast of developments in specific countries. The establishment of resident coordinators would mobilize the international community, provide a structure for alerting it when the peacebuilding process was in danger, and support States throughout the process of post-conflict reconstruction.

52. **Mr. Moustafa** (Egypt) said that the Commission should focus on three areas over the course of 2017. First, as it worked to mainstream the concept of sustaining peace into the work of the United Nations, the Commission must work to deepen understanding of what the concept meant. To facilitate their working together and in partnership with the Secretary-General, it would be critical for all stakeholders to be on same page, including with regard to what sustaining peace entailed in different contexts. The work done by the

Group of Friends of Sustaining Peace in that area was useful.

53. Second, it was essential to catalyse greater and deeper commitment from Member States, particularly members of the Commission; members of each category must understand exactly what their membership entailed. The Chair had to take on the important task of defining the roles of the different membership categories and the ways in which they should contribute to the overarching objectives of the Commission.

54. Third, there had been encouraging signs from the Security Council throughout 2016 and at the start of 2017 regarding the future stature and relevance of the Commission. As indicated in its workplan, the Commission should take charge of and deliver on three specific Security Council tasks: those related to the Central African Republic, Liberia, and the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel. Taking ownership of those pilot projects would help the Commission to consolidate its advisory role in relation to the Security Council. Further, in order for that advisory role to make sense, chairs of country-specific configurations should time their country visits according to the Security Council schedule for country consideration. Input based on recent experience on the ground would the most meaningful.

55. The steps outlined above would enable the Commission to make significant contributions to the upcoming report of the Secretary-General and the high-level event scheduled for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, which must build on outcomes from those three areas of work.

56. His delegation supported the establishment of focal points for thematic and country-specific issues. The point made by the representative of El Salvador was important; it and other countries should use the Commission as a platform to share lessons learned from their peacebuilding experiences. His delegation greatly appreciated the work of the Peacebuilding Support Office and the importance of the Peacebuilding Fund, and understood the need to accord greater attention to financing.

57. **The Chair** said that he would do his best to deliver on the issues mentioned in the statement of intent and to obtain tangible outcomes, however small. All advice and comments would be duly taken into consideration in the fulfilment of his duties, in close consultation with the Peacebuilding Support Office and the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support.

58. **Mr. Bin Momen** (Bangladesh) said that he was encouraged by the visionary statement of intent and fully supported the five priority areas outlined, the provisional workplan for 2017 and the proposal of Japan to designate a focal point for institution-building. His delegation was pleased to see how much of the vision set out by the outgoing Chair had been realized over the past year. The Commission had attracted renewed attention and relevance by offering the concept of sustaining peace, which the new Secretary-General had made a centrepiece of his peace diplomacy. He agreed on the need to further demystify the concept, which would be a challenging task for the Organizational Committee. Bangladesh welcomed the work carried out on working methods and rules of procedure, building on the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions of 2016, which would enable the Commission to move away from business as usual. An alternative and viable agreement for the Guinea configuration could be a good starting point. The Commission's gender strategy represented an important value added and it should continue to be promoted under the auspices of the women, peace and security agenda. Bangladesh would support its implementation in cooperation with other interested delegations in the Organizational Committee. The additional focus on youth, institution-building and the interface with the Sustainable Development Goals was also very welcome. The work on best practices must be preserved and built upon while testing the various working methods. At the same time, the integrity, visibility and coordinating role of the Organizational Committee must be maintained; as far as possible, all efforts must be coordinated by the Committee to avoid creating multiple configurations, since they made it a challenge for States to remain engaged and contribute.

59. **Mr. Brackman** (Belgium) said that it was an exciting time for the Commission, given the significant impetus the Secretary-General had given to the concept of sustaining peace. Belgium agreed that peace, security, development and human rights were interlinked, with the result that a cross-cutting approach at the United Nations was crucial. The

Commission would play an important role in examining those cross-cutting issues. His delegation welcomed the Commission's determination to adopt more flexible working methods, including thematic or regional approaches, and hoped to play a role. Nevertheless, country-specific endeavours remained useful.

60. *Mr. Hahn Choonghee (Republic of Korea) took the Chair.*

61. **Mr. García** Moritan (Argentina) said that Argentina would be participating in the Organizational Committee as a member of the Economic and Social Council and would therefore be approaching peacebuilding from the perspective of economic and social issues, especially development. Most of the countries present had participated in the high-level dialogue of 24 January 2017, whose purpose had been to find synergies between the 2030 Agenda and sustaining peace. There was a consensus among Member States that sustaining peace was both a facilitator and a result of sustainable development, and that the two concepts, together with the protection of human rights, were complementary and created a positive feedback loop. Argentina had participated actively in 2016 in the discussions regarding implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in the negotiations of General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) on sustaining peace. His Government would support implementation of those processes within the Commission, bearing in mind that the United Nations had shifted its focus to prevention.

62. In order to achieve a sustainable peace, prevention and peace consolidation needed to take place before, during and after a conflict. Argentina had therefore traditionally supported a comprehensive approach that took into consideration the root causes of conflict, emphasized factors such as strengthening the rule of law, sustainable economic growth and respect for human rights, and ensured that the needs of all segments of the population were taken into consideration.

63. Argentina also believed that peacebuilding required sustainable and predictable funding. For that reason, it continued to support the proposal to assign the Peacebuilding Fund an appropriate sum from the assessed contributions to the United Nations budget. In the meantime, Argentina had started to make voluntary contributions to the Fund in 2016.

64. The United Nations was at a critical juncture with regard to practical implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the principles of the resolutions on sustaining peace. It was a good time for the Commission to deepen the fulfilment of its mandate, including by going beyond regional configurations. In particular, Argentina believed that the Commission could play a more active role in helping the Security Council design and evaluate the mandates of peacekeeping operations. It could also support the Economic and Social Council in its monitoring of achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in conflict-affected countries. In addition, in the near future the Commission could and should broaden the scope of its work to include a larger group of countries. Argentina fully supported the work of the Commission and agreed that its action should be more universal.

65. **Mr. Gómez Camacho** (Mexico) said that the two resolutions had provided a crucial definition of the concept of sustaining peace on which everyone agreed. However, the term remained somewhat amorphous, and it would need to be defined more precisely in order for it to be turned into policy. The Group of Friends on Sustaining Peace was therefore committed to developing the concept further.

66. The representative of El Salvador had made a very important point regarding the responsibilities of the United Nations in the areas of peacebuilding and maintaining peace, and the responsibilities that the Commission could or should have. El Salvador had approached the United Nations and had requested support, and Mexico was very pleased to have been appointed by the Secretary-General as his personal representative for that purpose. It would give El Salvador the opportunity to contribute its experience. The Commission must acknowledge the request and find a way to become more universal, broaden its perspective and avail itself of that opportunity.

67. **The Chair** said that, regarding the term "sustaining peace", the two resolutions of April 2016 had represented a landmark. Sustaining peace referred to the goals and processes involved in preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict but it was also important to focus on recovery, reconstruction, development and reconciliation.

Significantly, the Commission was the only organization to have provided a definition, and it was currently deepening the concept and mainstreaming it both within and outside the United Nations. El Salvador had mentioned expanding the work of the Commission, and experience in a different region could inform the process of defining that term. He would be counting on the leadership of Mexico in the Group of Friends on Sustaining Peace.

68. **Mr. Morales López** (Colombia) said that the non-paper of Japan was very interesting and should be studied in depth. Following the signing of the peace agreement, his country's priority was peacebuilding. The agreement had the support of the international community, in particular Norway, which was the guarantor, Chile, Cuba and Venezuela, as well as the Secretary-General and the Security Council, to which Colombia had submitted a request for a special political mission, and the Peacebuilding Support Office. In terms of expanding the work of the Commission, he would like Colombia to be used as a case study and a point of reference in the discussions on sustaining peace. Colombia had implemented a 100-day plan that sought early victories in the achievement of peace, but the overall process of developing and consolidating peace would take approximately 15 years. All those elements were important factors to be studied by the Commission.

69. **Ms. Krisnamurthi** (Indonesia) said that her country was active in and committed to peacekeeping operations, and believed that their success was a determining factor in that of the Commission. Peacebuilding was crucial to the continuation of the post-conflict phase and national ownership was fundamental to achieving results. Partnerships with regional and subregional organizations created an enabling environment for peace and development and the Commission could collaborate closely with such organizations when implementing the regional approach set out in its workplan for 2017. While the Commission was primarily an advisory body, its experience had given it valuable insights in terms of improving transitions and fostering a comprehensive approach to peace.

70. Regarding a broader and more universal approach to peacebuilding and increasing the Commission's relevance in the context of the current challenges, as well as the non-paper of Japan, the Commission could discuss issues that might have a bearing on achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16. Indonesia could share its experience of achieving democracy, and the Bali Democracy Forum was an example of a forum that aimed to promote the values of peace and democracy through dialogue. An equally crucial factor for robust United Nations peacebuilding was financing, since the ambitious, multidimensional mandates for peacekeeping operations established by the Security Council came with no guarantee of funding for peacebuilding. Indonesia remained committed to its modest annual contributions, and continued to encourage voluntary contributions to the Peacebuilding Fund. She commended the Chair on his efforts to ensure predictable financing for peacebuilding. Her Government stood ready to participate constructively in peacebuilding as a way to address complex challenges to peace and security.

71. **Mr. Okamura** (Japan), speaking as a participant in the review mission carried out by the Guinea configuration, said that reform of the judicial system was an urgent matter in Guinea. A functioning penal chain and nationwide security sector reform were essential for the consolidation of peace. However, the current configuration mechanism was somewhat limited in its ability to address those challenges through the Peacebuilding Fund, because it was more difficult to design projects in certain domains. There was no international organization dedicated to institution-building, as in the case of other priority areas such as health. The representative of Burkina Faso had said that border security management in West Africa was crucial, meaning that a region-wide, cross-cutting and cross-border approach would be needed. The purpose of the focal point for institution-building was therefore to take up those issues.

72. The non-paper was intended to provide food for thought. First, it proposed to identify and focus on issues that had received little attention thus far, such as democracy, national security institutions and local governance. Second, it looked at how to mobilize financial resources. The platform should coordinate the implementation of projects, and bilateral donors, including regional financial institutions, would be required. However, Japan did not wish to be overly ambitious. The aim was therefore to start with Guinea

and the area of judicial reform, before expanding to cross-border security issues in West Africa. The project could subsequently be extended to other regions facing the same challenges.

73. **Mr. Dieng** (Senegal) said that his delegation agreed that it was important to continue diversifying the working methods of the Commission in order to boost the efficiency and flexibility of its work in the area of sustaining peace. Senegal was thus pleased to see that two meetings of the Commission would be dedicated to the issue in 2017. Second, his delegation also agreed that partnerships with regional and subregional organizations must be strengthened; experience in Africa, most recently in the Gambia, had shown the importance of their role. Although the Commission had an international remit, its work should also have a regional dimension since the support of regional partners had been a factor in obtaining good results to date. Third, he wished to emphasize the importance of strengthening interaction with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. The high-level dialogue held the previous day was a good example of such efforts. Lastly, sustainable and predictable financing was crucial to be able to support countries and implement national plans.

74. **Mr. Zamora Rivas** (El Salvador) said that there was a risk that universalization could result in irrelevance and generalities, and action must be taken to guard against that outcome. The best tool for expanding space was indicators, such as the human development index, which had played a key role in universalizing the concept of development, and the world press freedom index. Although they had limitations, they had been very helpful in spreading awareness in society of what the Commission was trying to achieve. The Commission could think about creating a peacebuilding index, published annually or biannually, to deepen understanding of the structural interactions between peace and development and between democracy and peace. The contribution of the United Nations would thus go beyond understanding peace as the absence of war or violence and would situate peace where it belonged, as a component of happiness and well-being.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.